

Mrs M. E. Riddle

L. Trip Crossing
the plains in 1878

Return
to

Mrs. L. Knapp
Knappa Oreg.
Box 139

Mrs Riddle was married

Oct 24th 1858

Mary E. West Riddle

June 19th
born 1840

Ellenorts

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Mrs Ida C. Church of
Baker is an adopted
daughter of Mrs. Riddle-

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Mary Esther West (Mrs Riddle)
was

Born - June 19 - 1840 -
near Michigan City, Indiana
when 4 years old moved to
Cole's County, south of Chicago
at the age of 15 moved to
Illinois - 1855 - moved to
Iowa and there was
married to Moses A. Riddle
in 1858.

In 1878 Mrs Riddle
crossed the Plains into
Oregon. settling first in
Baker for year, then
to Clatsop County, to
Homestead in the location
of Soensen - 1879 -
where she still resides on
a small piece of the
Homestead claim -

Written Apr. 18 - 1905

M. A. Riddle died Nov 18/1894

May 6th 1878 Wednesday night -

Now as I intend to write a Diary of our trip to the
Star West, I intend to write each days travel at the end
of the day - of all that we see and - do - And now begin with
I just say that we are in Dow City to night - all as far
as I know the whole camp is a happy one - we started this
morning from the dear old home - how very sad it is to
break up ones home and leave the good friends behind to
go out to seek a better place - so many of the dear old frie
nds came this morning to say the last good bys the yard
was just full of our friends when we started to drive off
how hard it was to look back at the weeping ones that we
was leaving - but it has to be parting and meeting - and
meeting and parting in this life - Now here we are at
Dow City seven miles from home. we come out here and
camped so our friends from all around could come into
camp to visit us - which they are doing - the whole camp
is like a swarm of Bees moving about from camp to camp
we have so many friends for miles around - it is some
like last night at home so many coming and going - last
night we never put out our lamps the whole long night - lots

of our friends staid up all night - I laid down once just a little while - Moses never went to bed at all - there is a dark threatening looking cloud laying off in the West, it looks like we may get a drenching before morning - now I must go and call on John & Fannie Coubern for the last time May be in life - May 9th Thursday - we got up early this morning to find all in good shape - every body full of life - we did not get started out of camp very early for the friends come around to get a last word - when we got to Dunlap Will Gilbreath was out with a livery team to go a ways with us - Frank & Henry come on to Dunlap last night to stay with Will - he drove untill we stopped for dinner - then eat his dinner with before he went back - he took a queer way to eat his dinner - he would not set down with any one of us but just went from one lot to another taking a piece from all - saying he must eat with all the last time - poor boy he felt so very bad to say the last good by - oh it is heart braking any way to be leaving so many dear dear friends - after dinner we drove on west on our way fast leaving all familiar scenes behind us - we passed through Logan and drove three miles out and camp

for the night in a nice grove of timber. we made up a grate
camp fire to cook our supper by - every body is visiting from
camp to camp - as I sat writing by the camp fire light John
keeps piling on sticks to see them burn - Henry is sitting on
a camp stool saying (oh dear I believe I'll die with joy) indeed
we are all as happy as can be - May 10th when we got up this
morning we found everything covered with frost - it was very cold
there was ice froze in our water pails - every green thing was
frozen down to the ground - we have traveled all day through such
a lot of beautiful farms but all are blackened by the hard frost
Ada took the first ride on Kelly but she turned the saddle off and
Ada too - then Maggie tried to ride her - she turned the
saddle with her too - then I tried to ride her - she laid down
and rolled me off. then she was rid of us all for the day -
we camped for dinner by a little country store - after noon we
on through Cressent City out by Terry's fine Nursery it is
all black from the frost - we got into Council Bluffs about
five o'clock - drove on out about a mile and camped for the
night - got our water out of the rail road tank - we got supper
early so the men could go back into town to see what they could
see.

Albion C Smith come back with them Making our camp
lively for a while - later in the evening Billy Drader & his wife
come out from the City to see us - she brought me a gallon of
milk - she said she thought we would like a last taste of old
Sallys milk as we had sold her to them back at the old home
last fall - May 11th we got up early to cross the Missouri
River - we crossed over on the cars drove all the teams into
closed cars and went over every one staying in their own waggon.
we then drove out two miles and a half from the river and
camped to fix things in better shape for traveling (we are begin-
ing to learn that we are not ready to travel) after dinner a lot
of us went back in to Omaha to do some trading - I bought
some green Onions for supper - in the evening Albion ~~and~~
Smith come into camp again lively as ever - the young folks
are having a dance on the grass. Mr Smith joining with
them all having a good time - May 12 Sunday - we are
in the same camp - we have more or less fixing to do - every
one has something to do - I had to take off both our waggon
covers and mend them the horses tore them all to pieces
last night - Johny Gilbreath helped me mend them. he

and Maggie are still without putting off the going back from
day to day - dreading the parting. Nearly the whole day we have
heard a fine band of Minnie back in the grove and after
we got all our camp work done we went out to see what
it was for. we come out into a Bush Bear garden
all drinking and dancing for dear life - this evening
Louis Duvall come into our camp. Mr Smith come and
staid all night in camp. These are some of the old home
friends still hanging on to us yet. Maggie and John
have been without all the way from home having a good time
every hour - May 13 we got up early to let John and Maggie
get off for home on the morning train but they were to let
and missed the train - this afternoon a lot of us went into
the city to see things - then in the afternoon kicked up
and drove back into town and got our stores and tents
and a general outfit for camping out. Then drove out
on the old emigrant road and camped ready to start on
trip in earnest. here we found a family camped waiting
for a company to travel with - he joined our train - making
nine wagons in our train - (this family was Mr Sloops

family) in the evening a lot of us went back in to town
I bought me a watch and a revolver - I also bought him
a little. May 12 we got up early again to let Johnny
Wiggins set off on the morning train - there came the
hardest frost of all - it was breaking the last of it that
brought us to town and friends. Dr. Johnson Wiggins came
down. Dr. Johnson all bid us good by and started back home
while we started on our westward way - we now begin to
realize that we are leaving home in earnest - up to now we
have had no rain - the weather has been nice - it has been
like some nice pleasant trip - but now we are on our way
for certain - just our little company alone among strangers.
We drove till noon and camped for dinner out in the open
country. We drove on to Elk Horn River and camped for the
night. we tried to catch some fish but it was too cold
for them to bite - it has been very cold all day windy from
the North - May 14 we started at six o'clock from the
Elk Horn River in about a half an hour drive we come
to the Little Stream where the boy was skinned alive some
years ago for shooting an Indian - this part of the country

is perfectly level - we can see for miles and miles a
round us - there is some very fine farms but no fancy
farms lay open along the road just the same as the wild
Prairie - no timber but the groves that are set out on the farms
which in time will make good timber and a great wind
break which this country needs - we drove through
city about three o'clock - about three miles out from town
we came up with Doctor Grappes train in camp we
stopped and eat our lunch with them - the air during these
miles the rain pouring on us all the time - we camped
in a little grove near by a house - the rain kept
up a steady pour down - this is our first rain since we
left home - During the night we got up early the rain still pouring
down - after we had our breakfast it stopped raining the
women all went fishing but got no fish but Mike Biddle
he got one little one - George sold some of the chickens
he gave me three of the eggs - I made a salad with them
for dinner - we started on after dinner - the country is
perfectly level - we traveled along the rail road - we stopped
at a farm to by horse feed - I bought some pig plant for

our supper - we are camped to night by the side of the
great flat River - it is a big muddy stream. nearly all
day went fishing but got none - all our camp are well
so happy as ever there is just 28 persons in our train
May 17 we got up early but it was raining - it stopped
about nine o'clock then we hitched up the teams and started
about eleven it began to rain again - a fearful pour down
we saw all the beauty of a Nebraska storm. it rained and
hitched and blowed we could not find any kind of shelter
out of the storm till about four o'clock we drove down into
a farmers grove and camped it makes for the night
this was a fearful storm just our continual flash of light
ning they is no farming all along our road. the farmers
shut out their cattle & cows. I never saw a sheep stalk
out to day. May 18 when we got up it was still rain-
ing our bedding was all wet but the whole camp was in
good spirits considering the weather - we had fish for our
breakfast for the first time - we are in sight of
Columbus city. we spent the day in camp drying our
bedding. Messer went into Columbus city to get oil for

to spear fish with to night. I have been out a while
to the lake to see them spear fish but I got tired of it its
to windy and cool for me. The lake is a beautiful thing
just a deep Basin in the level Prairie. There is a shift
on it to go out to spear fish. now its nine o'clock I'll go
to bed. Some of the women are in bed - some are out by
the Lake - May 17 Sunday - when we got up it was fine
clear and warm - we kicked up and drove on to Columbus
City and on through about a mile and come off with
Doctor Snappers company again in camp - they had passed
by us some way by some other road. we went into camp
with them and got our dinner. Then spent the rest of the
day visiting around the other camp getting acquainted
with our new neighbors as they will join our train
and travel together. we are now 17 wagons sized
68 people all as jolly as can be. Tomorrow we come to
our camp yesterday he has come from the old home on
the cars and we took it - it come up a fearful black cloud
this evening but did not rain. May 20 we started
all in line (mosses drove out in the lead the first thing

went to cross the bridge. Dined on a bridge a half
mile long we drove through the little town of Jackson
at ten o'clock went five miles farther on and stopped
for dinner, just as we were getting up to start the sheriff
of Platt county came into camp and asked to see the
and started him back to old Crawford again. He had
tried every road to get away from justice at home he
felt very bad to have to go back after trying so hard to get
away. We drove on to Silver Lake here we got our
first letters from home. What joy to get mail on the
road. We got four letters - and the Review oh what a treat
I got thrown off belly about four o'clock this afternoon
I fear that I am heart very bad. I can't stand on my feet
at all. They had to lift me out the wagon. I'll not give
up unless I hear the doctor say there is no hope
broken. May 21 we started at ten o'clock this morn-
ing. It rained all the forenoon on and on not coming
out on the open prairie in the pouring rain. But it stopped
raining before night. We are camped out on the open
prairie to night. I think likely it will be open prairie

from now on westward - I am very lame and sore
I cant stand or move only as Moses lifts me. I have
suffered more today than fingers can tell just terrible -
Ada has a bad sore finger to make things worse for me
it is hard to get our work done but Frank help all he
can Henry and him can do lots of it. we find no wood
along now only very chip or not see we pick up the
our cooking with heavy piece hole of chip and trash along
the rail road. he dont let one thing pass him - May 22
this morning the Graffer train drove out in the heat
our part of the train in the rear - we drove through gay
Island. here Doctor Graffer sold his monkey it made
them so much trouble in camp. Mrs Graffer could
not get her work done for the bother of the children around
her tent playing with it it has been fearful hot to
day by spells and hard rain showers by spells - how
I do suffer itching and itching I have to lay down in
the wagon all the time. Moses lifts me out and in the
wagon - we are camped near by the Little Town of the
man it is threatening a hard storm May 23 when

we got up this morning so very wet from top to bot-
the storm last night was terribly hard - it blew all the
the tents and awnings - Frank & Henry got soaked in
through the sleep in one of our awnings and it blew in
through the cover - we drove till noon and stopped and
tried to dry our bedding - we are camped to night in two
miles of Henry Junction on the rail road - we are still
traveling over perfectly level country - not a break of land
or - or hardly a bit of grass for our teams - they say they
knew where they can get it - May 21st we drove in to
Henry Junction and camped for the day. Amos got
both our teams shod and Kelly too. I am very lame and
very weak I can hardly bear any pain - May 22nd we sta-
rted out early drove to Lida and stopped for dinner & then
drove at afternoon over painful rough roads - I have suff-
erly 1/2 of the pain I can't stand alone yet - the Captain
of the train will not stop and let me get better - he wanted
this morning to leave here at Henry Junction till I was
better than take the train and catch up with them - I can
not wait behind alone if I do then they can leave me

behind. Some of our train want to stop till I get better
and some will not stop. Mission would stop with me but
the Captain of the train will not let him. They say they
must keep together so for fear of the Indians. We do
hear frightful news about the Indians on farther west.
I think our crowd is a little mad and decided the night
they elected another Captain this morning. Now we have
two Captains - both are a little mad tonight. Water is very
hard to get along her now - with the water so hard to get
and two Captains & very body feel made one Captain says
to drive fast the other wants to drive slow. So tonight
our folks folks and Charlie Pearce and Corrie's folks
folks are camped a mile ahead of us we don't know
what they mean by it till we catch up with them if we
ever do - May 26 we didn't catch the fast crowd in
till noon we eat our lunch and drove on ten miles
and camped by a school house there is a little settlement
at here around we saw our first Park Rabbits today
as we come along - the men are out hunting them
now - one comes running into our camp just as fast

and the sage says it is - it is used to burning under
the school house - but the children and the dogs made
pretty lively for it. I am only out in the tent door and
look out I am not alone yet. I have wrote a letter
this evening to send back home. May 17 now they
have made it the rule to drive in the lead by turns - one
man one day then the next day that one will drop back be-
hind the train and so on until all have had a day off.
I get to eat our dinner by a rail road station and to
night we are camped on the Salt River. This makes
our third camp on the same river - we are traveling
along by it for several days - they tried fishing but got
none. We have seen strange and wonderful things all
day - it is well worth the trouble of traveling to see the
Things and some things - Henry got me some beautiful
flowers to day - he rode off on the pony and got them
the pony is a great comfort to the children to ride for a
change - (if she did nearly kill one she was not to blame) they
have the side saddle or the boys saddle on here every day -
sometimes change the saddle two and three times a day -

May 28 we have traveled all day close along by the
Dixie River - the road has been perfectly level the River
on our left hand. the high stony Bluffs off on our right
to day we have seen our first sand - we have expected
to find sand on our way before this - the great sandy plain
that we have heard about is nothing to dread - or at least
we don't find it so - we camped by a school house
got water out of the well - we sometimes now find it
hard to get good camping places - for water and grass
is scarce - May 29 we got up early and just as we
were starting an Antelope came near by our camp -
nearly every man got his gun and began to shoot
at it the bullet flew after it like hail but no one hit
it they kept up the shooting until it was a mile off
poor little thing it was scared nearly to death - it was the
first Antelope we have seen - we stopped to eat our dinner
over to day by the rail road - we used water out of a hole
by the side the track made by grading the road. it was
just a puddle hole of dirty water but it was all we
could get - we camped at night by Antelope station

Just before we started for night. Henry was off from
the road a ways on belly he caught a little young Antelope
a little family - about four o'clock this afternoon
as the cars was passing by us. Harry only stood out on
the platform waved his hand and went on - we found
him at the station waiting for us - he got off from
the night in some way. May 10 we started out early
Henry gave the U. M. Antelope to the women at the station
we could not keep it for want of milk or we could have
carried it along for a fat. We traveled 16 miles by noon
drove off the road quite a way to get water to get our horses
just after we got back onto the road. Harry & Edward killed
a Antelope - it set our men wild about a half dozen of
them took their guns and went hunting and got behind
so they had to walk ten miles to get caught up which they
did after we had went into camp - we are having more
or less quarrels more every day. Some want to drive fast
and some want to drive slow - I am sure we are driving far
to many miles in a day for the food of our teams when
food is so scarce - and the water so poor - hardly fit to give

the horses or to cook with. we are still following the great
Blatt River valley. the road is very level and smooth
now - we are also following it along the railroad. the rail
road is a fine place to walk on when they get tired of the
wagons. some times there is as many as twenty people
out walking at a time. I am getting better now every
day. I can begin to stand and walk. we are camped by
the rail road. there is not a stick of timber in sight
no where. we just pick up what we can find along
every old hole where there have been fires. we pick up
every chip and every big stalky weed. these that rustles
most gets the most stuff to cook with. we have always
had enough yet to do with enough. May 31 we have
traveled 28 miles. the road perfectly level. we have seen
Antelope all day on every side of us. we camped by the
rail road. the roads are getting very dry and dusty. we
are getting some tired too. June 1st we have traveled very
hard to day. the road was very dusty. not a bush or tree
any where to make a shade. nothing but Sage brush and
Sage brush. we see enough Bricks. Bears now each

day to pass all the tracks of Beaver - the sage brush
helps us out greatly in our work - we can cook quite well
with it - it is something like a weed - more like a woody
brush shrub - it will burn ^{green} by cutting it up fine - just
before we stopped to camp ^{for dinner} Mike killed a *Agouti*
Voles down a mile off the road to get it for him - then
we drove a half mile off from the road to get water to get
our dinner - we had some of Mike's *Agouti* for dinner
then we drove back onto the road and on through Kilauea
and ~~on~~ two miles further on to a rail road station so we
could get water out of their tank - this is Saturday night
we will stay in camp over Sunday and rest for we need it
so does the team - we are in Colorado tonight -
None I should say night none of all the big storms that
I ever saw last night but then all just at evening
the great black cloud began to draw nearer over us
it had been laying off in west all the afternoon - every
body began to fix things up for a hard wind storm
Frank and Henry would keep fixing our tent a little
better as the storm gathered and came closer over looking

More fearful each minute - just as the dark came on
so did the storm. I never seen such hail and wind. its
very noise was enough to scare me and our horses to death.
Frank and Henry ~~the~~ held down one of the tent posts
Ala and I held down the other one - how we cried and
screamed. I'll not try to tell even the boys what we did
not care so much for the storm as we did to know
that Moses and John Church was out in the dark and
storm in this wild strange country - they had gone out
late at evening to hunt a whil - we was sure that the
Indians had got them - after the storm was over they
come in very ~~be~~ badly beaten up with the hail - when we
got out around to see how the storm had done for the camp
every tent had blowed down but Doctor Crofford and
ourselves was wet and cold - the horses was nearly
scared to death it was all the men could do to manage
them - There is not one ~~bit~~ bit of grass left standing
we have spent the day drying our things and mending
what the wind tore up last night - Tomorrow we started
early in the morning and here we left the great Platt

morning. We turned more Northwest. traveled all day
up a small stream called pole Creek. the road is still
level - only the valley is not so wide as the Platt River
valley. the hills are closer to us now they are all stone
hills. They are pretty to look at. our spy glasses come in
good play every 10 minutes. all around the camp want to
take a turn at looking. We cant deny any for it is a
great pleasure sure. we have traveled out of the track of
the hail but there is no grass to mount to any thing now
there is not as much feed on one hundred acres as there is
on one acre in Iowa. I am it we heard this morning
that our teams crowd is only one day a feed of us. we
drove my load passed through Sidney - bought horse feed
than drove on made a very short morning. we are get-
ting very tired. and some are as tired as they are
the fast driving. just before we stopped at night Moses
killed a Antelope. one will not make a mess for the
whole camp now. there is fifteen Teams of us now - we
are camped on Pole Creek we are very scared of the Bad
hairs now all the time. we scall the seasons every night

and keep a yard out. Two men stay up at a time
half night at a turn - we have 21 men in camp - we have
the company of a fat Antelope in camp to night it is
fine fun for the children to play with its dead tame and
real pretty I suppose - we got up early it was raining
our fat Antelope was still in camp - it belongs to a house
near by - we traveled on in the rain cleared off by noon
we are camped on Wolf Creek again only we had to
drive a little off the road to get to it for weather -
the Prickly Pears are very thick all around - the sheep
stickers go through thin shoes - the poor little bear foot
children suffer awfully in them - some went fishing
and some went hunting - an awful storm came up late
at evening - we tied our tents to the wagons then they
down solid - it all had to be done in five minutes for
the storm came on so quick - Moses had gone out
hunting again but when the storm began to come on
he hurried back to camp he had not yet got to the store
I suppose we drove ten miles and stopped for lunch - we
can see Jack Rabbits on all side of us - and Antelope

are very plenty every where we drove ten miles after
dinner and camped on the same little stream - I don't know
why they call it Little Creek for I am sure there is not a hole
on it large enough to hold one hillo of the Linnæa Beans
the trees might have been one day a bush or two on it - I am
sure it is the longest little stream I ever ~~see~~ saw June 7th
we traveled 20 miles up this same little stream we drove
without our dinner & we camped at an old camping
ground there was no camped here when we come up
we camp near by them some of our own crowd have
not come up at all they are so very mad about the hard
driving in fact it seems that we are driving hard
enough to kill our teams and the people too - we are getting
very tired I am getting most well now I can walk when
I want to - June 8 we got up very early drove into
Elk River stayed about four hours to buy feed and our
provisions - here we had lots of trouble so many are
mad at the fast driving there is great danger of a general
out break in camp - Metch came around to our camp ^{and} said
he will not go any farther with such a crowd but after

a lot of talking and fussing. they drove on till night
together each Captain agreeing to take day about
tossing the train. we camped here where five teams
are already in camp. June 9 is Sunday. we staid
in camp all day resting. we surely need rest. we have
a nice camping ground. The country is wild and beautiful
nice to look at. but so wild to ever be of any use to mortals
only for wild beasts to roam over. a good many stags out
wishing to day. I didnt do any. June 10 we started out
early. the five teams joining us. now we are 25 teams
in our company. we began to come into the mountains
about two o'clock. The mountains are the most beauti-
ful sights that we have seen on our trip. the granite rocks
are piled up in all shapes and ways. one great pile of
rocks was piled in such a way that it looked as tho
a man might with one hand push them over. but not
so. for they have withstood the hard winds and storms
for years and years and will I suppose for ages yet to come.
nearly every woman and child yes and even the men
was out walking gathering flowers. new kinds that we

have never seen the like - every thing strange and new -
the little wild flowers are the most beautiful that I ever
saw - all the brush and trees are new and strange - not
one thing that I ever have seen before - the nicest thing of
all to me is the spice smelling Guayberry bush that is just
in bloom it is all covered with little pink sweet smelling
flowers - what a grand place to have a picnic - Mary saw
the bunches of flowers that was gathered to put in letters
to send back to the friends at home - we stayed at noon
by a little farm ride in between two high mountains of
stone - the small pine trees seem to just grow out of the
rocks - they come out of every crack and hole - where ever
a seed could find a lodging place for there is not one bit
of dirt or ground to be seen on these rocks - every body
went out over the rocks after dinner to see the strange
sights that is so fine a change after passing over so
much wide level dry plains - things are really pretty - the
flowers some are nice the prettiest that I ever saw -
we passed tons and tons of snow all afternoon - it
look so cool and pretty - we camped at night by a great

bed of snow. the young folks have played at snow ball
to their hearts content. we have a roaring big camp fire
(for the second time since we left home) the pine wood
burns very nice. it seems so good to have a good camp
fire it looks good beside it is good for it is real cool.
to cool for comfort. it is raining some too. Some of the
men climbed up on the mountain so high that to look
at them they looked like small boys - every one is hunting
for something new and strange. June 11th we got up early
and as we went up higher into the mountains we passed
snow on all sides - snow from one foot to six foot
deep - the snow water running every where making it
very windy and slippery - very very windy. we got to the
summit of the mountains about ten o'clock. nearly
every one got out to walk to see if it made any change
in the walking in the light mountain air but none
could walk but a little way untill all out of breath.
there is ~~no~~ no mistake there is a ~~big~~ difference in
the air - even the Teams felt the change. they could go
only a little way untill they had to stop and rest.

we then come out onto high level plain then began
to go downhill again the western slope is much steeper
than the east side and not so much rock or trees
in fact the trees were all behind us at noon - we got
down the mountain and into Indian's City about one
o'clock we got our dinner and bought provision and
horse feed. we bought water bags for now we are getting
into the alkali country where the water is bad we can
smell the alkali as we pass along they tell us that
that we will have to keep water along now for a while
till we get through this belt of alkali country - while
the men bought food and things a lot of us went out
to the Territorial Prison which was near by our camp
it is a sad sight to see so many men in Prison
shut off from liberty and sun shine. there is some
no nice looking men in there as any of our lawyers
or doctors or Editors - what a shame that men can't
do what is right and then there would be no need of
these places. there is seventy eight in the Prison
some black Negroes - there is seven women in too -

Jan 12 I will have to write a little more about
yesterdays travel - we drove 20 miles yesterday after
noon after we left Larimer's City - we did not go
into camp till nine o'clock at night some awful wind
about the late hard driving. There come very near being a
real rebellion in camp some declare they will not
travel so hard killing the teams and the people too -
we cant certainly stand this kind of travel long
this morning they all got together and talked it over
all concluded ~~that~~ that it is best to try to keep together
for more protection from the Indians which we are
hearing so much about now all the time - we did not
get started very early for it took so long to make
fire in camp the morning was clear and real cool
for we are so near the Snowy Mountains. we traveled
all day up a high level plain - the great Larimer's
Plains we have heard so much about I have read
and heard about the great Larimer's Plains ever
since I can remember - it is all alkali on every
side - the snow covered mountains are on our left

and left hand - we are traveling to the North West
between them it is cool even when the sun shines out
high and clear - we camped at four o'clock there was
such a fearful looking cloud coming out - but it passed
along the mountain range and only rained on us a little
the men went out hunting - they killed four Antelope
and three Jack Rabbits - we see them thick every where
on all sides of us - their meat makes a nice change
in our eating - June 13 the first thing this morning
after starting was to cross the water round hole of our
whale trail - it was a deep hole of alkali mud so
slimy that our teams could hardly get through - the
whole day was windy roads - till just about night we
came out onto a piece of rocky road such a rough
road I never seen in some places our wagons would
jump down nearly two feet at a time - it was awful -
I thought that I was about over my heart but I felt
this afternoon drive very badly - just before camp
we had to cross such a deep ugly stream it was real
dangerous it was so deep and swift and the rocks

so bad and high in the bottom we just drove up on
the bank and made our camp. it rained a little all day
and such wind as it has been once we had to turn
our wagons all around with the back end to the wind
to keep from upsetting our wagons - the teams don't like
such storms they are hard to manage when the wind
blows so hard - they killed one Antelope to day its
perfect cold to night the gards have their over coats
on - this is the worst camping place we have had yet
we had to clear off the sage brush to get a place to set
our tent on - the sage brush smells so bad when we are
brushing around in it - Sometime when we got up this
morning it was clear bright and cold - our breakfast
steamed on the table like a winter morning at home
we could see the horses breath all over camp - we are
rite along the side of the great Elk Mountain - its
a grate bank of white snow - at noon we camped for
dinner down in a little narrow valley. there was a lot
of dry brush we made a grate camp fire then hung
up quilts to shelter us off from the cold winds it was

very cold we really suffered with cold - the afternoon
was warmer - but very windy - the snow water raining
every where soaking up the dirt like mud - I never seen
such sticky mud - several teams got stuck in the
mud through the day - we crossed the Medicine Bow
River and some of the men was behind hunting and
when they come up to it they had to wade it - the water
was deep cold and swift - June 15th we drove until
noon on quite level ground it got some rougher
by noon - we have seen Antelope on all sides to day
we traveled 24 miles to day the road was more or less
windy - we are camped on a little stream near the
Platte River - we could have drove on farther but
the Baragon said if we would wait until tomorrow
he would put us across the Platte for a half dollar less
on each team - that's worth waiting for - we are very
tired any way - we are driving awful hard every other
day - our explain drove fast when it is his day - and
the other drives slow - June 16th we got up early and
begin to cross over the River - it took five hours to

put us all across we paid 240 for each team - the man
said he had run the ferry eight years and that one
of Moses teams was the largest horses he had ever put
over the River - Fort Steel is sit on the west bank
off the Platt River - here is lots of Soldiers stationed
to protect the country from the Indians - one two teams
got put across nearly the first so we had a good time
watching the Soldiers drill and train - when all was
across, (it only took one team at a time) we drove one
mile out of town and camped the rest of the day -
we had lots of visitors out from the Fort - our big
team seemed to be a great wonder to them all -
the young folks have been having a happy day - they
are happy or seem to be for all have been gathered
in groups making things ring with their singing
we'll let them be as happy as they can - for we old ones
have to bear their burdens - one man went back into
Fort Steel and sold his team and wagon so he can
go on the cars - he is afraid of the Indians - but so are
we all for that matter - June 17 we drove on to Rollins

and stoped to eat our dinner here we heard bad news
of the Indians we are into in this country now - we
drew hard all afternoon - there was a fearful wind
storm came up we had to turn the teams & yoke ^{out} ~~up~~
to save our wagons from tipping over - we are comfort
down between two high Mountains - the water is very
bad Alkali we could only let the horses have a half
pail a piece - its poison - they have tied up all the horses
to keep them from drinking and killing themselves -
there is scarcely any grass any more our teams are
having it hard with the hard driving and bad water
and scarce feed they are failing - June 21st we drove
twenty eight miles without stoping for dinner - it is
enough to kill all the teams and people too this way -
we crossed the Summit of the Rocky Mountains today
now we begin our downward course towards the
Pacific ~~coast~~ - Slope - camped at night by the
great Sulphur Springs this little creek is called
Mud Creek - the water is very bad. Oh dear what
would I give for a good drink out of the old pump at

home. (this is awful -) Now all we get up early to start
on - but there was several sick in camp - we are into
in the Mountain fever range - the doctor said
there was seven people very sick - Henry is sick a
little but not very bad - we staid in camp all day -
Charly Walwells baby ~~on~~ is very sick the doctor says
it will die - a lot of the folks went to the Sulphur
Springs to get some of the water to drink - the doctor
advised them to - at these springs there has been some
kind of a battle fought in the years gone by - there is
a wall of rocks built up and ditch cut down to the
water so to get the water with out being seen - we
dont know what has hapened here at some by gone day
there is graves where the dead are buried. oh I hope
none of our company will have to be left on the road
side - we see graves all along the road - this is my
birth day - Twenty three years ago I was Traveling from
Illinois to Iowa now it is from Iowa to Oregon or
some other place - then I was young - and as happy as
the happiest of young folks - not a care on my mind

to bother me - My poor Mother had all the care then
on her shoulders - the same as I have it now - why my
children are happy and care free - Mrs Colwell baby is
very sick - June 20 all the sick are getting better now
I sat all last night with Mrs Colwell in her room
to help her with the baby - & watched every minute for it
to die all the fore part of the night - but as the morning
came on we could see a change for the better - and by
the time the camp began to break a storm it was early
better & so we had lots of hope for it - and when the
doctor came around he said it was all right and safe
so we began to get ready to travel again - L. P. S. here
in this camp is where we come in company with
old Mr Barrow James Macomber and John Fisher
They come into camp the same evening we did only a
few hours later - till did we think then that we would
be neighbors in after years - June 22 now I did not
write last night for the very reason that I could not
see down on and on hoping to find water - after driving
fifty miles and until eleven o'clock at night we had

to camp down without water or suffer very bad and
sick - by day light this morning Aug 22 we began to get
out on the road again in hope of finding water - at ten
o'clock we come to a little stream called bitter Creek
it was very bad Alkali water we tried to use some
of it to make tea and bread - but we could not eat our
bread after it was made. we drank a little tea made
very strong - we had some fresh Elk meat that Moose
had killed back in our camp Creek camp. we all fried
some of that and eat with our tea. they give the horses
a half pail a pair a full pailful would have killed
them - we drove on after dinner and about two o'clock
we met a herd of Oregon prong on their way east
for sale. The men told us where we could get water
ahead by driving two miles off the road for it we
drove on the eight miles then off the two miles - we
was ~~or~~ all willing now to drive fast for once to reach
the water - we got to it ~~fast~~ about five o'clock - then
that got to it first come running back along the line
of wagons with water for the rest as they come along

and no one knows how to enjoy a drink of water
till they want it as we did - the weather is hot and the
dust so blinding the poor teams suffered more than the
people did. this spring is the sweetest water I ever saw
the children played and paddled in the little stream that
ran off from the spring they are surely happy in it - even
the horses are standing around in it as tho they are glad
to leave it for fear of the same old thing happening to them
Jan 29 we drove back onto the road again and traveled
12 miles and stopped for dinner on a little stream of pure
good water. afternoon we drove 15 miles and camped
for night all tired out and mad as hornets we did
not get into camp till dark. there is some very mad
people in camp to night - we cant live this way long -
we could hardly get our supper in the dark - I do
pity the poor tired women that has a lot of small
children - I will not complain for myself for I have
it so much easier than lots of them - this afternoon
we met a train of people on their way back from
Oregon - they tell us such hard tales about that

country it is enough to scare us out and turn us
on the backward track. but we have got to far to go
back now. and they tell us some fearful bad Indian
news. it is bad. we are really afraid to go on. we may
have trouble yet with the Indians before we get through
our journey. we are all tired and out of heart. and
nearly sick after these last few days of hard traveling
in the heat and dust and bad water. - all the afternoon
we traveled down between two high mountains. we
passed by a large cave under the mountain of rock.
some one has lived in it for years and years by the
signs of the place - there is hundreds of names written
in it on all sides and up over head. it looks like a
den of robbers that we read about in fables (it is
a robber den maybe) it looks like they might have
lived in there 20 years. I would just like to know
who did live in there. Henry rode Nelly into it
and wrote his name as high as he could sitting on
her back - this little valley is so narrow and the
mountains so high on each side that it makes it feel

As I along the road - there is just barely room for the road
in the bottom of the valley. a little stream runs down it. we
have crossed it twenty times I think. the road was very bad
at night we come out to where the valley is a little wider
we camped by a house here and a little patch of garden.
This looks nice after so long traveling over rocks sand mud
and snow and dust. the man here is a cattle man. he
keeps his cattle in these mountains on the bunch grass.
the spring of water here is nice. a little stone house is
made around it and the little stream that runs up
from it makes all the salt water that is needed
here we met a family coming back from Union county
Oregon they dont like any of Oregon they give it a hard
name. they would discourage us if they could. but we will
go on now and see for our selves then we'll know.

King. Let me staid in camp all day resting. some done
out some washing. and some done baking. I wrote letters
nearly the whole day. there must have been one hundred
letters written in camp to day. the young folks had a
dance in the house to day. the two young men herders

that live here was so pleased to see some young folks here
in the Mountains - they just sat by and looked on and
smiled. - I do believe they thought our young girls was
prettier. - then cattle they could not be persuaded to take
a dance with them. this evening Mrs Dorsey Cropper
and me climbed the highest mountain that was near
us - we got up about three hundred feet high - it is
just grand to get up so high and look back down
on our camp. wagons and teams look small from so
high - it was quite level after we got up on the top
there was lot of shelly rocks and great cracks in the
rocks - it was well worth our trouble of climbing to
see the grand sight off down the valley. About 2 1/2 we
got up and started out again the road was very
rough and full of ditches - and some spots of sand
I had no idea that sand was so hard to travel in
it tires the poor horses so to walk in it - it gives
away under their feet and they get very tired when
we pass over the sand patches - we drove very
hard and late - a good many are swearing like sailors

so mad at the hard drive - just about every other
day we make a long killing drive one Captain is
fast the other slow & it is killing on us in this hot
dry dusty weather - we are all getting very tired. Mas,
and Frank don't get into any of their squabbles - they
just take it as it comes. Mas is sure that his two
teams can stand it as long as any team in the city
crowd - he can go fast or slow just ~~as~~ as the
train is a mind to go - but he would rather go slow
on account of the people getting so tired by hard int
driving. June 26 we drove all day till four o'clock
without stopping for dinner. This is not so hard on
old folk but the little children suffer so far so long
a drive without stopping - the poor mothers too have it
so hard to keep them still in the wagons - we are
camped one mile out from Green River City
the men went into town and bought provisions
a delivery wagon brought the stuff out there is
a fearful heat in camp to night I am so tired of
so much pressing and quarreling all the time - but

as long as those and I keep out of it we can bear
it. we have to say my - we have not had a word in
any of the quarrels yet and we hope not to - Frank is
a good boy too - he keeps out of it all he can for our sakes
there is not one particle of grass on the ground now

we have to lay hay for the teams - we are rite on the
bank of green River we will cross over in the
Morning - June 27 we crossed the river this
Morning and drove out five miles and camped
for dinner the road is rite along by such stacks of
high rocks they are pretty to look at we make out to
see the beauty of the scenery as we pass for all we are
tired - we drove ten miles afternoon and found a
fine camping ground by a good clean stream of water
but we are all tired out and such a lot of mud once
to night - I fear we will have a real rebellion in
camp soon - the Train is likely to break up and
scatter at any time - June 28 we trooled very hard
to day it has been very warm - the road is very dusty
it raises up and settles all over us in the wagons -

Do not now all covered with it, so when we move it
will pour off our clothes. It is a funny sight to see each one
all covered with dust. The women have nice gray smocks
all the same as the men - made of dust, and all the Indian
sawtooths are loaded with it. If things keep on this
way we will all be hollow sawtooths checked. So we will
all carry an even chair - it is enough to sink the cheeks
and hearts and spirits of all. The horses is having it very
bad. we hope for something to better our troubles before it
comes to a real break up. June 27 we drove hard and
stopped for dinner down in a little valley found some wood
and made a fire. It was real cold. Saw some of the crowd
dropped behind. They have rebelled at last. now we are a small
train - only three teams more than we started from. Same with
the other captain has the big crowd - we camped for night
down in a little ravine - its very cold. we have found wood
and have a camp fire - we had to carry water three quarters
of a mile. After we were in camp the other part of the
crowd came up and passed by us and went on two miles
farther on and camped - June 30 when we got up this morning

we saw the coldest that we had been on the point is
was froze in our scales quite half an inch thick - so we
all real cold really suffering we were so cold we started
out and found the other part of the train they were ready
to start we got to London at seven o'clock - and
stayed in our quarters - then the other part of the train
came up and found by us. it seemed as though it to be
that we had not much trouble in our journey it had enough
at least we only drove about three miles and camped for
the day. Both trains camped in one hundred yards or so
then they all are afraid of the Indians so they are afraid
to get too far apart - but to avoid confusion to keep together
First we let the other train get started out of camp
first but by some accident we passed them by again - it
had to leave them where it was - we were a long
time it was very windy. Another Chippewa village there
and back the last all to pieces - this morning some of the young
fellows was out walking on the railroad and they did not notice that
our road was leaving the railroad - they walked on thinking the
road would come back to the railroad - they walked on ²

did not travel on and when we stopped for noon they had not
crossed yet so I went back to the railroad and at noon we stopped
and some young folks went to visit the water and fountain at the
park along the river and went there a mile or two back. They were
only going out. The river was just about gone - traces of it
like mud nearly dried here. The ice nearly ready to float down
when he got to have the horses shelling the grain along the bank
they would when he met them. We took out some of the
ice and made the other and nearly nothing here along. But
just in going in - did this - we camped for night in
the bend of the river. The stream was not here for some time
but by morning it was back and we had to cross the bridge as
we had them but it is good and strong. And we are all
excited about our operation. It is a bad thing and
will be with us for a long time. So by 2 o'clock we started
in camp all day to let the other crowd get on days back
ahead of us to save trouble. It is bad to have to pass and
refuse them when all are so much they are I pass with
out having some disagreeable thing to do. Then some
of it and just as we are passing that their teams were crossing

I left to know the way each of us has our own room but
all eat and work together. he had five other horses and two
on another ranch. such a case of this is not human an
sin. With either and not ought to be shaped entirely on
I always wonder but the crowd get two days a head of us so
this morning when we got up we talked it over about where
we would go to spend our fourth. It was to the Union or some
city this time - but we came to the conclusion that either
was so far away so we started on down to the Union -
it seemed to look a head down the Union that we were about
have to go through the mountains down into down then
at the bottom with a small stream of water running along
the lower a valley the railroad and some road and little
stream so winding down the valley and increasing each
other. At every turn the wind blew a gust into down the valley
whirling dust and pine about over us so we could not
see the train ahead of us at times. This day travel has been
a wonder but day to the stream and odd things. such piles of
quartz looking rocks but it is a wonder. The rail
road and wagon road and little stream. I wish I had some

how many times they raised and then we passed the south
of the land where the railroad passes under the mountain some
of the road walks through the mountains some
to be with straight up on our right and left some
places the road is made with through solid rock just
blasted of enough off the side the mountain to make the
road the little bottom is so narrow there is barely
room for the roads if it had not been so perfect but
and the best place we had we would have had a great
day from the right has been fine and wonderful at
times - we passed by what they call the bridge there
is two rows of rocks they seem to be about ten or twelve
feet apart rock set up side ways and end up in
two straight rows up the mountain side making a water
side ditch at right to come out where the bottom
is a little wider where there is some little patches
of garden growing - the stuff looks black and fine
there is a railroad station here and a few houses
and some stores - every body seems to be happy - they
have having a feast of table celebration - just before we

camped for the night we found the first man being potatoes
by the road side. he had offered to come down with us
with his family & some things we did by some and his wife
and 2 or 3 children and spent the evening they were very glad to see
some one from the old times - they were very kind of us and
more. I went to a house to get some milk - there was two sisters
living in one house the wives of one man - they had eleven
small children - none looked to be over nine or ten years
old - they had just come in from the field they were dressed
well and seemed to be just as happy as could be. (God for-
bid such a day of living) there were several other where there
were five wives and the whole house full of small children
they seem to be doing well in here they are all dressed well
and seem to be intelligent enough in this settlement.
July 2 we had a wonderful day travel all the through
our day things are getting more wonderful ground and here
we are not so tired and worried as we have been - we for-
get the past weeks of hardship when we are looking on
each other and beautiful sights we just enjoy it all
as we pass - we are out into the white river in the night

things are far more fine and wonderful look at them
in the morning which we got out of early this morn-
ing - every one is amazed at the rock and mountains and
the river and the road. This road is a great piece of
work to make it through solid rock in places - one
place the road was just wide enough to drive along with
only two feet to spare on the high mountain side
three hundred feet above our heads. On our left hand is
the Kibee River down below about 100 feet the water rush-
ing down over the rocks so swift that it is dashed into
white foam - I never saw a stream run as fast as it
does - but I never saw a stream that went down hill so
fast - it has a grate fall to every yard of it - up last just
wound along the bank of it for ten miles nearly every
yard of the road dangerous to drive over - we came out
of the valley onto a high open prairie just a little down
hill for five then down into a valley and came out to
Cadon City and here we came up with our other
crowd they had camped just out side the City - we are
camped in town in a vacant lot - we stayed about

four o'clock we had not stopped for dinner at all. I got
rid to some where. what a joy to get our mail along the
trip - this is a fine town and the country around is
a splendid farming country - the crops are fine - they raise
everything by irrigation - it don't rain here in summer -
such fine fruit orchards - I think I would like to live here
if we had a farm - we have had Indian news - it seems
dangerous to go on - oh I wish we were back home again
by 6th we got started about nine o'clock - we had to
buy food and provisions - the other crowd got started first
and passed us in camp - but when we got up into
the main part of town they we passed by them again -
I do wish that ~~we~~ them or us was off the road - it's
so disheartening to see so much trouble and contriving
mess - (I say real meanness) it's asking for men to
act as they do - we traveled nearly straight north untill
noon passed some very fine farms - stopped in a house
for dinner - this seems more like civilisation again
we had new potatoes for dinner - the other crowd come
up and passed by us while at dinner - we then started

on and passed them at their dinner (this is terrible)
this afternoon we have passed by some fine Mormon
houses - some farms look like a small town - so many
houses to keep their many wives in - we passed by an
artificial fish pond - it had been scraped out and
filled with water from a small stream - it was a grand
sight - the water was so clear we could see fish only one
inch long in it - we passed over a little stream coming
down from the foot of a great mountain about 30 rods
off on our right hand - the stream was hot so our teams
would hardly go over it - the spring at its head is boil-
ing hot - we camped for night in an open prairie in
between two farms - not one spark of grass - we have to
carry our water two miles - it is bad salty stuff when
we do get it - we are going around the great salt lake
now - we can see it all the time off on our left hand
we can smell it too - July 7th we started out early it
is Sunday too - but we had no good camping place to lay over
so we had to travel - we got into Panguitch at noon or there
about - here we found a lot of folks come in from the country - all

scared in by the Indians we did not know what to do -
some were scared to had to talk about they really was to
scared to talk some thought we might get on to the top
all safe and then stop if need to if it was not safe
to go on - but we drove on ten miles and stopped for
dinner we went straight west along the railroad and long
side of Salt Lake - we stopped at the foot of a great high
mountain we could not get a drop of water a one
where - there was plenty of grass - but it was all thick
with salt the grass was just in one spot of a few acres
all the rest of the surrounding country was just one great
white plain of Alkali and salt - there was nice clean
salt lying on the ground - a nice clear little stream of water
running by but it was pure brine we could not use it nor
give it to the horses - we camped for night a half mile
from a cattle ranch - we have passed by all the farming
country now - the water is very bad but we can make
out to use it the grass is pretty good - July 8 we have
traveled hard all day - the whole day has been over great
white plains of Alkali and salt beds - I scattered

up some pure clear salt water enough to use. I want to
send it home in a letter - one place we had four miles in
one straight string of alkali sand. The worst I ever saw.
Team after team got stuck and had to be helped out.
We drove till dark before we could find any water that
we dare use - all are tired this night. July 9th we drove in
to Dalton by noon here we had another Indian scare - it
enough to turn ^{gray} ~~one~~ headed to hear the story they tell us - some
of our train wanted to stop - some wanted to go ^{over} ~~the~~ road and
some another road. Some want to put out our teams and
go on the cars. But we heard that there was some other
emigrants camp out a ways - waiting for some other
train to come up so they could travel on with them. We
bought provisions and drove on out to them in the
afternoon - just before we stopped we saw our other
train coming up but they stopped in camp behind us -
we camped with the train that was already in camp - it is
a beautiful camping ground. There was eight teams of the
movers and six teams of freighters in camp here -
July 10 we staid in camp all day - we all are very glad to
rest and have good water which is fine - such a nice

spring - one other crowd came up about noon and mid-
camped with us by all was water out of the same spring -
no women went and didn't as friendly as we used to do - we
have never had any trouble with the women part of the crowd -
we always stand and smile as they are passing for we all know
its pure courtesies to us so. July 11 we started on part
of the freight train joining us - we drove hard all day
didn't stop to get any dinner and camped at night
across in between two high mountains - we have good wood
here to make a camp fire they have put out extra guards
to night - I am more afraid to night than I ever have been
it really looks scary more so than any camp we have
made - it quite cool down in here to night - July 12 we
traveled hard all day over bad roads very rough - very hot
and dusty - we stopped for dinner a few minutes - another
crowd joined here the other crowd passed us again - this
is getting to be ~~quite~~ perfectly ridiculous and foolish -
silly simple - no sense at all) in the afternoon we
had to pass down through a deep narrow canon - the
freight men said that this place was now the most danger-
ous part of the road for Indians they were seen here last

went watching this part of the road - here we were scared
in good earnest - the canon was so deep and narrow ~~at~~
there was just room at the bottom for the wagons and on
each side was steep brushy mountains. The men walked
before and behind each wagon with their guns in their hands
the women driving the teams - not a word was spoken - nor
hardly breathing while we were passing through - but we saw
no Indians. Very glad of it too. We came out on a level
open prairie and camped by a little stream of good water
but no grass at all - our other camped earlier in camp
before we - there is a kind of a fort made here. its made
of sods and sage brush - the wall is three feet thick and
six feet high and one hundred feet square - we did not
camp in it. Some of the men took the horses up to the foot
of the mountains to herd them on the grass - but the poor
horses seemed to be scared half to death and could not be
made to stay there - they came running back into camp
frightened till they was just wild. They staid around
the camp and done without feed. they must have seen or
smelled Indians up there - July 18 we started on at eleven

select the few teams stopping behind again so we went
on with our own small train - we are with a small crowd
now that we are really afraid to go on alone - we drove 10
miles and camped for the night by a fine spring of water but
no grass - there was a few teams camped here when we come
up - this a wild looking country all along - July 14 we get
up early this morning before the sun rose - just a little way
off from our camp we saw 23 teams in camp they had
come up in the night and camped - Leroy went over by the
camp and come running back telling us that Mr Adams felt
was in that train - ever enough Mr Adams that had star-
ted a week before we from home was there in a crowd by
himself - we started early - some of that train joining
us - now we are a larger train we are not so afraid -
I got into Mr Adams wagon and rode all day visiting -
this day was the worst dust of the whole trip so far - every
body was covered with dust I never seen the like of it - we
drove hard all day with out dinner - this is no good way
to get fat or even take comfort - we camped on Rock
Creek there is 30 Teams in camp to night - there was here
when we come up - July 15 we get started by daylight

all in a hurry to get across ~~the~~ ^{the} River our mail train
was ahead of us here they was just saying that a ~~new~~
new trouble had come up they declaring that they would
beat us across Snake River & kill all their horses - so they
did beat us across - but I fail to see anything smart in
it any way - ~~we were now in the~~ ~~at~~ ~~for~~ ~~we~~ ~~also~~ ~~and~~
~~the~~ ~~river~~ ~~to~~ ~~but~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~going~~ ~~for~~ ~~Oregon~~ ~~as~~
~~we~~ ~~come~~ ~~over~~ - ~~the~~ ~~little~~ ~~boy~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~lives~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~
~~region~~ ~~and~~ ~~still~~ - ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~is~~ ~~Oregon~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~it~~ ~~the~~
little fellow ~~has~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~about~~ ~~the~~ ~~region~~ ~~he~~ ~~thought~~ ~~it~~
~~was~~ ~~something~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~region~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~region~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~region~~
just stoped a few minutes for dinner and drove on to the
Malad River and camped for night - here we come up with
our mad crowd again all camped near together - we are
traveling through dangerous ground - we have seen all day
the houses with the windows taken out and walled in with
stone for safety against the Indians - at noon while we
was crossing the River two teams come up loaded with
goods that had out to gather up where the Indians had killed
the freighters and scattered the goods - July 16 we got up

early was afraid to go on and afraid to stay where we was -
but we made a hard drive and at noon got to a stage station
the stations have little stone posts made to go in in case of
need - we got on to another station at night and camped
after we had camped our other crowd come up and camped
near by us - they had a little boy dead in their train he had
died about three o'clock. poor little fellow he had been sick
all the way. I went to see him this morning before we left
camp. I didn't think he would die to day - but its best for him
oh dear if we was only off this fearful trip - here at this stage
station the Indians took the stage horses all away from the
man only three weeks ago - and destroyed all his garden
stuff and took all his provision away from him - he his
himself while they done it there is no women at any of these
stations nor at the few farms we pass by - July 17 we get up
very early before sun rise Mrs. Holt Mary A. Bowen and
I set up last night with the dead boy - but no one can begin
to tell the awful dreariness of sitting up with a corpse in
a tent out in a wild country. it is so sad and lonely
to sit and hear the silent garden keep up their steady

tramp about the camp. it is more than I would like to
do again if I could help it. the men made a grave and
just after the sun came up they buried him - then started
on. God help the poor mother that had to go on and leave
him there alone in that wild spot by the road side -
we have traveled very hard over rough stony roads. we pass
by one stage station and camped at night by a little ranch
here is just one lone man staying. he has a little stone
fort made for safety. July 18 we have had a fearful bad
day of dust. some times we couldnt see our horse heads for
dust its about six inches deep - we did not stop for dinner
camped for night by a small ranch - one man stay here a
lone. here is another little stone fort - how we hear more
bad indian news - its enough to make our crazy will hear
July 19 we started early - our other crowd was ahead of us
they said they would beat us into Boise City or lost - but
we passed by them while they was rest in camp - they just
hellowed goodby as we passed - said now they would
give it up - we drove hard and got into Boise City
we drove through to the north side of town and camped

the others come up and camped on the south side - we staid
in camp the rest of the day - we hear more bad news of the
Indians we are afraid to go on - there is lots of soldiers
here - July 20 we drove three miles out of town where we
could get water and feed for the teams - here we found a lot
of teams camped waiting for better times to go on - this is a
nice place - water is fine - the grass is good - July 21 we staid
in camp all day - its very hot here we cut brush and made
a shade over our tent and in front of it. it made us much
cool and comfortable - this is such a nice resting place - we
are taking comfort now - I wrote several letters home - some
done out working - July 22 we are still in camp - some of
the men want to go to Boyes to hear the news - it is no more
favorable now than when we staid - we are enjoying
this place - we are getting rested - there was more teams
come into camp to day - July 23 still in camp we cant
go on yet - the news is no better - some of our crowd has
got tired of doing nothing so they have gone to quarling -
(making good the old saying that ~~the~~ Satan can find
for idle hands to do) our own little home camp are very ^(some)

Happy and resting more every day July 24 I'll in camp
some men went back to the City to day again to hear
what news there is - there is nothing new - so they have made
up their minds to go on - so all have something to do to
pick up things and get ready to move again - July 25
we get up early - the whole camp was called into council
to see who was willing to go on and who were not or would
rather stay in camp yet awhile - the larger number was in
favor of going on - then they elected another Captain
for the train an old frontiers man who had been on
the road before (P. S. - this was old Mr. Barrow) so we get
started on again to the relief of many - we started out
with 34 teams - we drove hard all day and camped at night
at the little town of Middleton - here some more teams come
up and joined us - this valley is a good farming country
the crops are nice - July 26 we drove 15 miles and stopped
for dinner - afternoon we drove 8 miles and camped
at a stage station - here some more teams come up now
we are 44 teams quite a good strong if it was not for
the women and children - all things go on smoothly under

the rule of our own Captain. July 27 we traveled hard
started early the road was over a dry dusty sage brush plain
we crossed the Payatt River and soon camped for our
lunch. The river was deep but we forded it the water
went into our wagons - we had left a man behind in
the morning hunting for his horse he did not come up by
dinner time so we waited for him until it was too late to
go on any farther - when the stage driver came up he told
such frightful Indian stories that we are nearly scared to
death - they have run the wagons into a stronger barrel
than common - and put out a extra number of guards to
watch - Moses and Frank are both out to night for the
first watch - every tent is stretched inside the barrel of
wagons but ours and our sheep - the horses are always
tied on the inside - I am more afraid of the horses if
any thing should scare them to make them break loose
our tent is rite by the wheels of our wagon so we can run in
to the barrel if need be - July 28 we have been afraid
all day - we drove hard - with out stopping for dinner
we camped for night by a stage station - there is lots of

Soldiers here to keep the Indians from crossing over the Snake river. The Scouts come in this evening and say that they had seen the Indians over on the other side the river. We took our glass and could see the streak of dust from them where they were going south about 15 miles off - but the river is between them and us. and the soldiers are here but all are so excited and afraid - a lot of the men have took the horses all out to the foot of the mountains to keep them there all night - they will herd them out there away from camp. July 29 we get up and found all alive and well for all the great scare last night - we drove out a little way and come to another squad of soldiers watching a crossing on the Snake River to keep the Indians from crossing. we drove very hard and come to the ferry across the Snake river about ten o'clock - begin crossing and by two o'clock all was over - then we was in Oregon the wonderful land - (Oregon) that we had been traveling and trudging over long weary miles of sand - dust - mud - stony roads - rain - hail and winds - heat and cold to reach - just as we got over there was an

Scrape with the snow that cast a shade all for a few
minutes - there had been so much talk of Oregon-Oregon
all the while that when the men began to get out Oregon
Little (Trinky) Bidler stuck his head out the side the
wagon cover and said (Where is Oregon I can't
see it -) we camped between two high mountains a beau-
tiful place the water is so nice the grass is good our four
teams needs it. July 30 we have tramped hard all day
our road has been all the snow hill all day very high
mountains on our right and left the cañon is deep
and narrow at the bottom we eat our dinner in the hot-
test place I ever seen the mountain so high and bare
the sun beating down - not a breath of wind - we camped at
night at a stage station in 24 miles of the whole Ter-
ran Army - This is getting a little worse than I like -
it is awful scary - I am getting very tired but I have it
so much better than many others in camp I ought not to
complain - July 31 we have tramped hard all day - didn't
stop for any dinner - we was awfully cold all day -
and to make it worse our teams begin to give

Moses took nearly all his load into our
wagon to lighten his load and took all his family to
ride with us so if finally he might keep up with the train
we camped at night by the virtue mines seven miles
from Baker City into the open prairie a very rough
hilly country - August first we got up early - got breakfast
then called all together in council to see who of them
wanted to go by Baker City and who wanted to go on
straight to Union town - all decided to go on to Union all
but six teams - Our two teams - Mikes two - Four Adams
and the sold - so here was the final separation of our
fellow travelers - so the train will be broken up at differ-
ent camps now - for they will be stopping off to see
for each one self which place they like best - each will
choose his (best place and stop) I see very plainly that what
will suit one will not be the best place for another - all
can't see alike - but they are in Oregon they will begin
to shop and look about for something - we drove on to
Baker City - got there at ten o'clock - we staid out side
of town - for fear of the Diphtheria which was raging

Amie went up into town to see if John Tillitt might be
in town - he found him in Baker so we drove out to
his place 3 1/2 miles west of Baker City - we got out and
camped by noon - here is the end of our journey for the present
and I am very glad of a little rest after three months of
hard travel - During it & now we have been spending our
time far differently for the last few days - from what we
have been doing for the last three months - the first thing was
a dance at Tillitt - then visiting - resting - looking around
over the country - Mrs Tillitt and I took a long ride over the
country day before yesterday to see what we could see - we
rode our ponies and went miles and miles out through
the farms - it is so strange to me to see nothing but
wheat growing - no gardens nothing but wheat far as one
can see - Mrs Tillitt tells me that there is but two or
three gardens in the whole valley - it never rains here in
summer - they have to irrigate everything - the soil is just
a bed of alkali & where it is not irrigated - when I
looked over the country and got back to camp I never did
in all my life feel so bad and homesick - we are all bad

disappointed in the country our men folks have got so
interested in gold mines that they are spending their time
more pleasantly than we women. Time begins to drag
along with us - we are camped in Tiddie's yard we are in
the house or in our tent just as we like. but its not good
to be idle some begin to get cross again. they had another
dance last night in at Gllat. we have been in camp now
five days. I am getting very tired of the heat and dust. the
wind blows hard every day. August 6th a man came into
our camp last evening and wanted some one to go out on
his farm and do a little work. so, we hitched up and
drove out to his place and camped in a narrow lane
near by his house. Now this morning another man came
along and wanted work done too. he offered better wages and
a longer job of work. we hitched up our teams and drove
to his place 12 miles and camped near by his place, its
in the sage brush and dust. Next morning we drove
back through his field down to the Powder River and camp
ed on the bank under some willows this the nicest camp
ing ground we have seen ~~for~~ on our whole trip. Now

all went to work Moses and Frank Jim Macomber
and Henry leaving Ada and me alone from early morn-
ing till late at night - we had music at night all around
us with Rydell - so time wore on till the last of Sep-
when we moved back to Tillet's place again but our
Willow camp had been a very pleasant one while we were
staying in it - we had lots of company while we staid there
one Sunday some movers traveling from Kansas came to
our camp they knew my uncle Richard West in Kansas
was rich from there - they told us many things about uncle
we camped at Tillet's again while our men went out
thrashing for awhile - we had made up our minds to go
west of the Cascades to winter - but we had to rest our
teams a little while for they had been working very hard
since we stoped - then when we were about ready to go on
again one of our mules got sick - so that put a stop to that
part of our arrangements for the time - we then moved up
in the mountains and in the house with an old gold
miner - here we was settled for the winter - Moses and
Frank went on with the thrashers till the middle of Oct.

Then come home and called down for the winter. Then
Moses went to herding sheep for a season out in
the mountains - the men chopped and hauled some cord wood
into Baker City through the winter - but the greater part of
the time they done nothing - Frank Burns went into
Baker and worked some - so time was on till spring -
May came then Moses had made up his mind to go in
to the gold mines for the summer - and send me and the
children down into Washington Territory to my father
so on the eight of May just even one year from the
time we left our old home in Iowa we started to travel
again in the same old style with team and wagon -
Mr Ferguson took us in his freight wagons as he
was going to Armatita after a load of freight for the Store
keeper in Baker City - we were very sorry to not have
Moses go into on with us then - we started out and got
down to the lower end of Powder River valley - we
camped at night at the foot of a low range of hills that
seperates the Powder River valley from the Grand
counel valley - we made ~~camp~~ a fire and made our

offer in real emigrant still again - Here another
bright team joins us in camp. May 9 we got up very
early and started on. Our Surgeon was in a hurry to get
on his way. we traveled about three miles up a gradual
slope of small mountain then down a long deep canon
into the Grand Round valley - here we see more signs
of spring than in Powder River valley. Each tree as in
 bloom - we got into Union town about eleven o'clock. we
met Doctor Cropper in the street he would have us go to
dinner with him - our time was very short to talk over our
old times of last summer very much - but we put in good
time what time had together - they are called here for the
present - the road was very muddy all afternoon down the
valley - we camped at night by a quite large farm - a very
large farm too - for he owns a large tract of good farming
land all in one body - it is raining May 10 it rained
all night hard - but we kept warm and dry in our big
wagon it nearly as good as a house - it is high enough for
us to stand straight under the cover - after we get in for
the night our Surgeon comes and puts in the kind

end gate and then we are shut in as safe as a house
we use the back end of the wagon to get in and out of -
After we got out of the wagon for breakfast it was to eat
It was made some coffee we eat in the wagon - it cleared
of light and warm by nine o'clock - we soon drove out
where it had not rained a drop last night - we passed ~~to~~
Grand and Oriskany both are nice little towns it and
are begun to go into the Blue Mountains - the road is ^{well}
very rough - it runs into along the Grand Round Pine
we went up along the river till noon - stop for noon
by the old Bridge - all afternoon our road was very rough
and Rocky - we come out at night onto a high open spot
nearly a prairie just a few scattering trees - we camped
and made a grate fire its cool - May 11th we got up very
early it was very cool hard frost - the sun come up ^{was}
and bright - things looked beautiful through the mountains
we get to the Summit of the mountain about eleven - we
past late of snow - we get down to the toll gate and
stopped to eat our dinner - about two o'clock we met
John Seaddy and Bob Boyd stuck in the mud with

Three heavy freight teams they were heavily loaded for the
muddy roads. Mr. Ferguson hitched on his Team and
pulled them out and up the hill - it was raining now and
made the road worse. we camped for night in the heavy
woods made a grate fire again - May 12 it was raining
when we got up - but soon stopped we got our breakfast and
and started on into down through the mud - the mud is
so bad where it is thawed out - it began to rain soon then
about one o'clock we stopped and camped. here is three
dead horses laying around where the indians killed them
last summer to stop the teams. they killed three men too and
wounded one more - by some means one man was left here
on the ground they did not take him away - now there is
a pole fence built over the horse bones. Ada and I found
some of the bones out side the fence - we put them back in
the fence it stopped raining but we staid in camp its
sunday - Henry, Ada and me took our spiglass and
went up on a high hill to look over the country - its a grand
sight - we could see for miles off over a level valley to
the town of Walla Walla - this is the most beautiful

country I ever seen in my life - in the afternoon Frank
Barnes and Mr. Jones, Campbell and passed by with
heavy loaded freight wagons - they drove on three miles
and camped. Frank came back to stay all night with us
we are meeting heavy loaded freight teams now all the
time. Much too heavy loaded for the windy roads. it is
worse on the western slope of the Mountains the snow
is melting and running all over. May 13. we got up
early. Frank went back to his team. we soon began to go
down hill very fast they call it the long hill I think its
rightly named for it is four miles down down down.
Mr. Furgison locked all the wheels on both wagons -
while we went down - we passed the old gins station
this station the Indians burned all up last year. They
have just got up a stage barn and a house for the men
to camp in - we stopped for lunch by an Indian tent
a quite large tent - big enough for 20 or 30 Indians to live
in. Ada and my went into the tent while. Ada thinks she
dont like Indians - or their style of living either - we
got into Pendleton at evening. we went to the post office.

We mail some cards at the office we heard of some of our old
Iowa neighbors they were living about three miles out of Towner
this is a lonely looking country - but the Indians come it all about
here. this is their Reservation (the Sissetons) May 14 it
rained hard all last night and the wind blew a gale - but the sun
came up bright and warm this morning. Our Frigison got
up very early to get a early start but when he went to get up
his horses off the grass - he found some of them had started
back toward home - he had a hard job to overtake them and get
them back - it made us very late in starting - it soon began
to rain and poured it down all day - we went 12 miles without
stopping for dinner - we stopped about four o'clock at an old water-
ing place - we got dinner and supper all in one - Henry made
our coffee. Ada said I did not get out the wagon - the wind was
blowing a fearful gale - no woman could stand up in it anyway
this watering place is some wells dug on a high level plain
one man lives here alone and sells water to the freight
teams and every body that passes by - I do think it a lonely way to
live - but he makes a lot of money - May 15 we started early
but I never seen such a windy day in my life. that is to take

the whole day through. we stopped to eat our dinner along side
the Armatilla River - we tried to be out a while to rest but
were glad to get back into the wagon out of the wind and
flying sand - the sand kept up a perfect whirl enough
to blind one - we got to the Armatilla Landing about four
o'clock in the evening - such a sand bed as it is all about
Armatilla - I see sand drifted up on the porches of some
houses two foot deep - Now here we are at the end of our
journey in the old freight wagon. but we have been very
comfortable in it - Mr Ferguson has took the best of care
of us all the way - we all want to suffer at the Hotel then
event on board the steamer. Harvest again to be ready to
start down the River early in the morning. Mr Fergi-
son helped us get all our goods on board the steamer - then
late in the evening he came on board to say good by - now
our traveling will be in a different style hereafter - ⁽¹⁶⁾ May
we started down the River at three o'clock in the morn-
ing - the children got up to see the Boat start its thin
hirst right of a Steam Boat - we were on the Boat about
five hours - then landed at Chelilo then got on the cars -

It took three hours to unload the boat and put the thing on
the car again - then we started on down. It took till four o'clock
to get to the Dock - we went right aboard the boat and got our
rooms for the night. This was a fine big Steamer the warmest
we got into Portland and went to a Hotel and staid all
the next day and early next morning we got on a small
steamer and went up the Lewisriver to La Center in
Washing Territory. we got off the steamer and I walked
about till I found a man that said he would haul us out
to Father's for three dollars (seven miles) he took about four
miles out on the way and left us at a house for the night
he said he would not go any further over the muddy roads
where he left us was a friend of Father's so we had a
pleasant evening. next morning when we got up it was
raining hard - but Al and I started and walked out to
Father's. ^{miles} ~~They~~ I never seen such muddy road in all my
life - we waded in mud and water clear over the ~~p~~ top
of our shoes in many places - but we found Father
and Mother very glad to see us after so long a time -
so we began to get to feel a little better we were at home here

about the first of June Ada took sick. she laid for five
weeks under the Doctors care. she laid so very low part of the
time that I began to think her days was numbered that she
could never get well. but she got better and slowly come back
to life. and began to move about the house a little by me
or Henry leading her and holding her up. then all of a
sudden one morning Henry was not able to get up. then
he laid for three weeks in bed not able to rise, his head
but he never got so low as Ada did at any time. the whole
surrounding country was sick at once. The same Doctor tended
on 34 sick ones all the time he went day and night. they all had
Diphtheria - now I never knew that I could bear so much
hardship as I had to go through. (but as the old saying is where
there is a will there is a way) I got through it some way. I had
a little help to tend on Ada for there was not so many sick
at first. but I tended Henry day and night alone the three
weeks. I was among strangers and so ^{the doctor came every day} many sick. They
all had lots to do to help tend to their friends that they
knew. no one knew me so I had to leave it through the
best I could. so we got along and Ada was quite well

and strong again - and Henry was getting stronger fast when
got a letter telling us that Mear was coming home from the cold
mines - Mrs and the children went to meet him at Leaside
Henry was not able to do it but just would go too - so we just let
him walk as slow as he could and not stop - he knew that he could
ride back on our horses that Mear was fetching down with him
(now this walk was seven miles) making fourteen miles of a walk
when Mear got rested a little he began to look around for us
a home - he looked the country over for miles around. he done
many miles of hard walking about trying to find something
to suit him on either of the Lewis Rivers - so in the latter
part of August him and me got on the steamer went down
the Columbia River into Clatsop county Oregon he looked
about that country a while but did not like it very well -
but took a claim on a piece any way - then we went back to
Portland then on up to Vancouver in Wash - then back
to Clark co again - he then went to looking over Clark
county again - he looked nearly all over the whole county trying
to find something he would like - he hunted about a month he
get suited and could not like any of it - so about the last

of left he went back down the Columbia to look at that
place again. he looked over that place again and concluded
to take it. he then came back and began to get ready to
go on the claim in ~~Whit~~ Co and try to make a home of it
on the 1st of October he went back (taking Henry with him)
to build a house ready for us. Ada and I staid where we was
we had a room fixed up in Father's wood shed we had a fire
place to set by of night. so we would set of on evening
wishing that they would soon send for us. Henry had never
been away from me before. on the 13th Ada and me started
down to them we had a terrible rainy windy day to get to
La Center. I got a man to move us down to the steamer
to go down the Lewis River and out across the Columbia
to St. Helien to catch the down River steamer we got over
just in time (to be left) by the down River steamer. we
had to wait then for the next steamer - the steamer West-
Port came along in the afternoon we got on it and went
down as far as Westport and staid all night on the steamer
early next morning we went on to Tripple got there
about nine o'clock in the morning. staid in the hotel to

afternoon when Emma came out after us and went out about
a mile to Mrs. Andersons and rode out on a sled. the road
was nearly over the sled in some places - next day was Sunday
we staid with Mrs. Andersons. went to Church - and went
to visit Father's family a while. Monday Andrew Anderson
took us out (into the wilderness as they call it) the road
was fearful deep - it was so hard for the team that Ado and
I got out the wagon and walked on out to our sleds place - we got
all wet and sandy. we rode over the tops of our shoes - we
staid all night with Mrs. Andersons folks - the next day Dec 18
we moved into the house with our Barrowns - after we got
moved in there never was such a crowded little house as
before. on the 22 we went back out to Mrs. Andersons
to a little party - then came back into the woods to pass the
winter as best we could in our circumstances - but we
spent the winter quite pleasantly. the men was busy
making the road out to our claim two miles away. in ma-
rch we began to clear a little place on Mr. Barrowns place
to make some garden and plant some potatoes. by the last
of April we got our little patch ready to plant - the first

of May we began to move out onto our place - our
home we called it - we had a hard time to move out - out
to pack nearly every thing out - as the road was only a narrow
trail - we did make out to haul our store out on a half
sled with Kelly - the road was so rough that the sled broke trail
all up so we carried every thing else out on our backs -
we only got out what we had to have to get along with for this
the time - now we had got up to the 6th of May when we
took our last load out and got ready to stay on the place for
good - (or bad) it was just as - two years since we left
our old home in Iowa until we got onto the new one - 1879
now we began a new life - like nothing we had ever seen
before - it was only just kind of company get as we had
such a few things to do with - and that was very few for we
they didn't need much - Ada staid out with Beattie all of
so we three was out in the ~~the~~ woods a wild mess
was indeed - the men put in all their time slashing and
chopping down trees - never did men work harder - on the
fourth of July Ada came out into the woods for the first
time she had never seen her new home before - it was her
birth day she was 15 years old when she began her new life
in (the wilderness) - about the middle of August we had
to move off out of our slashing so it could be burned over
we moved back about a mile into Andrew Andersens
little house - such a little mite of a thing it was - not re-
ally anything - just could be called a house that's all - but we
made out to live in it until we burned our slashing

and no another house for our burned with the place
up now every one of us went to work in real earnest to
a plan to make another house - we came out every day -
early and late digging and burning stuff - we had a li

shed made to go under when it rained to stand on

we worked in a good lot of rain any way - we were al
working for a home - about the middle of Oct. we got our

house up good enough to go into - so we would not have to
walk so far - Ada and I worked every day with them - rain or
shine it made no difference - but we had but very little

was full the time we worked - we could just camp in our house
I got but it was not near finished - but we could now sit in

more time - we now named our new home Forest Home

and a Forest Home indeed it is, now who ever

makes these pages in future years will see just what it is

we were full up from a good home and moved around and then

moved and make a new one they will see that it takes up a lot

before ~~and~~ of time and a lot of hard work besides and a lot of

trouble and vexation to bear - but now that we are settled in

our new home it would take a good deal to get one to

start out and do it all over again - when we first came

out here we thought that we would be left out for

neighbors - but we had not got fairly settled in our new

home until Moses had to go and build a new corner

make a house near by us - so by Christmas they got

the house done and moved into. I think that is all
of it moved in on Christmas day there was snow upon

every thing that I remember very plainly - our nearest
nearest neighbor was Mr. Fisher a mile and a half
away and no road there only the poorest kind of a trail
now this is the end of of over two years wandering
about trying to get onto the - best place but if this
is the best I do pity the worst -

Mrs. Riddle passed away April 5th 1899

after
a long
winter
we at
to visit
back
was,
I got
all my
staid
we
now
before

page 1

to a
wind
sped
some
ach
to
of
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of moved in on Christmas day there was snow all over



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